


BIGGLESWADE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER
of HEALTH

and

of the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year

1965

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Medical Officer of Health

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Public Health Inspector

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Biggleswade Rural District Council*

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances for the Biggleswade Rural District for 1965.

The vital statistics in the first part of the report indicate a generally satisfactory state of affairs, the death rate and infant mortality rate being below the National average.

Measles was prevalent throughout the district and although, fortunately, there were no deaths, some infants were quite severely ill.

Although a vaccination against this disease is now available it is not recommended for general use. The frequency with which reactions occur following vaccination, and the doubt about how long the immunity given will last suggests that we should await the results of further trials. The vaccine is however of use in special circumstances when considered advisable by a doctor.

There was a small outbreak of whooping cough in the north of the district. Investigations indicated that this was due to a new strain of the infection against which the present vaccine does not give a good protection.

It is hoped that in the future the vaccine will be modified to protect against all strains of the "Bordetella Pertussis."

Very poor progress has been made with slum clearance during the last few years.

In many villages there are small terraces of working class cottages built during the last century. They are badly constructed and without the necessary internal amenities which are necessary to make them fit for human habitation by today's standards. In some cases they have been made reasonably comfortable by the occupiers who have added a lean-to scullery with an internal water tap and sink, and the front door which opens directly into the living room has been sealed up to keep out the weather. Old couples who have lived in them all or most of their lives are quite happy and in particular appreciate the low rent they have to pay, but for families with young children these houses are not capable of providing a decent healthy home environment. For the very old also they are not suitable as the lack of internal facilities and primitive means of heating, make the housework too much for a frail person, particularly during the winter.

It is necessary therefore to devise a slum clearance programme to eliminate these houses systematically and rehouse the tenants in accordance with their needs.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Members of the Council for their indulgence and the Council staff for their help and co-operation during the year, and particularly Mr. Pridmore who has been responsible for the major part of the year's work recorded in this Report.

I am,
Your obedient servant,

H. S. BURY,
Medical Officer of Health.

BIGGLESWADE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for 1965

1. STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area in acres	..	..	..	..	..	..	50,827
Registrar General's estimate of home population mid-year 1965	..	..	..	..	..	..	31,050
Number of inhabited houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	8,809
Rateable value	..	..	..	..	..	..	£784,909
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	£3,155

2. SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The district is mainly agricultural and is famous for its market gardening industry.

Small industry includes light engineering, brick making, milling and the manufacture of fertilizers over twenty-five scattered parishes.

Several villages such as Potton, Shefford and Arlesey and Stotfold are quite large; others like Astwick and Eyeworth are only very small hamlets.

The area is very prosperous and employment is plentiful.

3. VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births

					<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	329	324	653
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	14	7	21
				Total	343	331	674

Crude birth rate per 1,000 Home population	..	21.7
Adjusted birth rate per 1,000 Home population	..	22.6
Birth rate for England and Wales	..	18.1

Still Births

					<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	4	6	10
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	2	—	2
				Total	6	6	12

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total births	..	17.5
Still Birth Rate for England and Wales	..	15.7

Deaths

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
All causes	194	191	385
Crude death rate per 1,000 Home Population ..			12.4
Area comparability Factor			0.87
Adjusted death rate per 1,000 Home population ..			10.8
Death rate for England and Wales			11.5

Deaths Connected with Childbirth

Maternal Mortality .. Nil

Deaths of Infants Under One Year of Age

During first week	7
Second—fourth week	2
Second—twelfth month	4
Total in first year	13
Rate for all infants per 1,000 live births	19.3
Rate for England and Wales	19.0
Neo-natal Mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	13.4
Early Neo-natal Mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births	10.4
Peri-natal Mortality rate Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)	27.7

STATISTICAL TABLE, 1956-1965

Year	Death Rate		Birth Rate		Infant Mortality Rate	
	Biggleswade Rural	England & Wales	Biggleswade Rural	England & Wales	Biggleswade Rural	England & Wales
1956	11.4	11.7	16.2	15.7	17.2	23.8
1957	9.4	11.5	16.7	16.1	22.2	23.0
1958	9.7	11.7	16.7	16.9	23.8	22.5
1959	9.6	11.6	15.5	16.5	9.4	22.0
1960	10.7	11.5	17.1	17.1	13.8	21.7
1961	10.2	12.0	19.4	17.4	6.0	21.4
1962	9.5	11.9	19.8	18.0	12.6	21.4
1963	10.8	12.2	18.9	18.2	20.0	20.9
1964	9.9	11.3	18.6	18.4	12.7	20.0
1965	10.8	11.5	22.6	18.1	19.3	19.0

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH—1965

Causes	Under 15 years		15-64		65 and over		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
3. Syphilitic disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic disease	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach ..	—	—	1	—	5	3	9
11. Malignant neoplasm, lungs							
Bronchus	—	—	8	1	7	1	17
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast ..	—	—	—	3	—	3	6
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasm	—	—	10	6	9	7	32
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
16. Diabetes	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	—	—	3	3	16	31	53
18. Coronary disease, angina	—	—	22	3	23	22	70
19. Hypertension with heart disease ..	—	—	—	—	1	2	3
20. Other heart disease	—	—	3	1	19	24	47
21. Other circulatory disease	—	—	1	2	3	1	7
22. Influenza	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
23. Pneumonia	—	2	—	3	7	11	23
24. Bronchitis	—	—	4	2	12	3	21
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	—	—	—	—	1	2	3
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	—	—	—	1	2	—	3
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	4	2	—	—	—	—	6
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	5	1	4	5	12	27	54
33. Motor vehicle accidents	—	—	3	3	—	1	7
34. All other accidents	—	—	3	1	—	7	11
35. Suicide	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Totals	10	6	63	37	121	148	385

Causes of death in infancy

Prematurity	3
Congenital abnormality	6
Asphyxia	1
Pneumonia	1
Gastroenteritis	1
Peritonitis	1

**4. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH AND MEDICAL
SERVICES IN THE AREA PROVIDED BY THE NORTH
WEST METROPOLITAN REGIONAL HOSPITAL
BOARD**

General Hospitals

Bedford General Hospital, South Wing, Kempston Road, Bedford.
Bedford General Hospital, North Wing, Kimbolton Road, Bedford.
North Herts & South Beds. Hospital, Hitchin, Herts.

Geriatric Hospitals

Bedford General Hospital, North Wing, Kimbolton Road, Bedford.
Clapham Hospital, near Bedford.
Biggleswade Hospital, Pottton Road, Biggleswade.

Maternity Hospitals

Bedford General Hospital, North Wing, Kimbolton Road, Bedford.
North Herts and South Beds. Hospital, Hitchin, Herts.

Infectious Disease Hospital

Spittlesea Isolation Hospital, Luton.

Psychiatric Hospital

Three Counties Hospital, Arlesey.

Mentally Sub-normal

Bromham Hospital, near Bedford.

Chest Clinic (for Pulmonary Tuberculosis)

Bedford General Hospital, North Wing, Kimbolton Road, Bedford.

Venereal Disease Clinic

Bedford General Hospital, South Wing, Kempston Road, Bedford.

Miniature Radiography

Biggleswade (The Lawns). Tuesdays, 11.15 a.m. to 11.45 a.m.

Physiotherapy Clinic

Biggleswade. (The Lawns). Monday, Wednesday and Friday
afternoons

Bacteriological Laboratory

Bedford General Hospital, North Wing, Kimbolton Road, Bedford.

**Provided by the Bedfordshire County Council
Ambulance Service**

The Service provided by the Bedfordshire County Council has
satisfactorily met the needs of the area. It covers the full twenty-
four hours.

In addition to moving emergency cases, ambulance or sitting-
case car transport is available for carrying patients unable to travel

by other means to and from Hospitals and clinics when attendance is necessary for the purpose of receiving medical treatment.

Except in the case of an emergency, the request for an ambulance must be made by a Medical Practitioner or other authorised person. This should be to the nearest depot.

The service now also covers the removal to isolation hospitals of patients suffering from infectious disease.

The following depots are situated in the eastern and northern districts of the County:

Biggleswade (Chestnut Avenue). Tel.: Biggleswade 2295/2287

Bedford (Bedford Road, Kempston). Tel.: Kempston 5335/5336.

Domiciliary Nursing and Midwifery Service

This Service is administered by the North Eastern Divisional Health Committee. The nurses employed are:

<i>Name and Address of Nurse</i>	<i>District</i>
Mrs. R. E. Greenhill, 57 All Saints Way, Sandy. Telephone 547.	Blunham, Mogerhanger, Temsford, Little Barford, Beeston, Seddington.
Miss P. Briggs, 41 Oak Crescent, Biggleswade Telephone 2332.	Biggleswade, Dunton, Edworth.
Miss F. Bishop, 11 Festival Road, Potton. Telephone 234.	Cockayne Hatley, Everton, Eyeworth, Potton, Sutton, Wrestlingworth.
Mrs. B. Blamire, 15, Groveside, Henlow. Telephone Clifton 298.	Clifton, Henlow Village, Henlow—R.A.F. Station.
Miss D. M. Collie, 120 Ampthill Road, Shefford. Telephone 356.	Meppershall, Shefford, Campton, Chicksands, Upper Stondon, Haynes.
Mrs. E. M. Wyer, 62 Stratton Way, Biggleswade. Telephone 2028.	Langford, Old Warden, Southill—(Stanford, Broom, Ireland). Northill—(Ickwell, Lower Caldecote, Upper Caldecote, Thorncote, Hatch).
Mrs. E. M. Woodford, 14 High Street, Stotfold. Telephone 604.	Arlesey, Astwick, Stotfold.
Mrs. E. O. Evans, 45 Western Way, Sandy. Telephone 588.	Sandy.

Health Visiting Service

<i>Name and Address of Health Visitor</i>	<i>District</i>
Mrs. D. Whomes, 12 Burley, Letchworth, Herts.	Astwick, Arlesey, Langford, Stotfold.

Miss N. Bulling,
75 Goldington Avenue,
Bedford.

Miss D. M. Towers,
15 Icknield Green,
Letchworth,
Herts.

Miss D. A. Hipkiss,
"Clovelly,"
Cottage Road,
Sandy, Beds.
Miss J. Watkins,
39 Sandfields Road,
St. Neots, Hunts.

Cockayne Hatley,
Mogerhanger.
Northill—(Ickwell, Lower
Caldecote, Upper Caldecote,
Thorncote, Hatch, Budna,
Brook End), Potton, Sandy,
Sutton.
Southill—
(Stanford, Broom, Ireland).
Campton, Clifton,
Henlow R.A.F., Three Star
Caravan Site, Henlow Village,
Meppershall, Old Warden,
Shefford, Upper Stondon.
Biggleswade
Dunton,
Edworth,
Eyeworth.
Blunham, Everton,
Sandy, Tempsford,
Wrestlingworth.

Provided by the Bedfordshire County Council Child Welfare Clinics

Arlesey: Methodist Schoolroom. Friday afternoons weekly.
Biggleswade: "The Lawns Health Centre." Tuesday afternoons weekly.

Henlow Camp: Henlow R.A.F. Station. Thursday afternoons fortnightly.

Henlow Village: Parish Hall. Thursday mornings fortnightly.

Langford: Ivy Leaf Club Room. Thursday mornings fortnightly

Potton: Church Hall. Wednesday afternoons fortnightly.

Sandy: Thursday afternoons fortnightly. Friday afternoons monthly.

Shefford: Digswell House. Wednesday afternoons weekly.

Stotfold: Unionist Club. Monday afternoons weekly.

Northill-Caldecote: Ickwell Club Room. Thursday afternoons monthly.

Home Help Service

Organizer: Mrs. V. Van Berckaler, Medical Centre, Union Street,
Bedford. Telephone: Bedford 2207.

Dental Clinic

Biggleswade: The Lawns Health Centre. Four mornings per week.

Speech Therapy Clinic

Biggleswade: The Lawns Health Centre. Thursdays weekly.

5. IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

It is now possible to protect persons against an increasing number of infections by the use of vaccines and toxoids. The Bedfordshire County Council is responsible for the provision of this service which is given direct at clinics and schools or through the General Medical Practitioners. Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus, Poliomyelitis, Smallpox and Tuberculosis are the diseases dealt with.

6. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

	Notification by Age Groups					
	Under 1	1-4	5-9	10-15	Over 15	Total
Dysentery	—	1	1	—	1	3
Infective Hepatitis	—	—	2	3	—	5
Measles	17	263	236	12	10	538
Pneumonia	—	—	1	1	3	5
Scarlet Fever	1	—	—	—	—	1
Whooping Cough	2	10	17	7	—	36
Tuberculosis—Respiratory	—	1	1	—	5	7
Tuberculosis—Non-Respiratory	—	—	—	—	1	1

NOTIFICATIONS BY PARISHES

	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Pneumonia	Dysentery	Whooping Cough	Infective Hepatitis	Tuberculosis—Respiratory	Tuberculosis—Non-Respiratory
Arlesey	135	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
Blunham	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
Clifton	8	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Cockayne Hatley	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Everton	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Henlow	86	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Langford	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meppershall	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Northill	25	—	1	2	—	—	—	—
Old Warden	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Potton	45	—	2	1	32	4	3*	—
Shefford	26	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stotfold	155	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Sutton	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tempsford	26	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
Upper Stondon	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wrestlingworth	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Totals	538	1	5	3	36	5	7	1

* 1 inward transfer.

7.

TUBERCULOSIS

The following table shows the number of new cases of Tuberculosis notified and the number of deaths for the years 1956-1965.

Year	NEW CASES					DEATHS				
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.	
1956	1	6	—	—	7	2	1	—	—	3
1957	2	2	—	1	5	1	—	—	—	1
1958	7	2	—	1	10	1	1	—	1	3
1959	8	6	3	—	17	—	—	—	—	—
1960	4	5	3	—	12	2	—	—	—	2
1961	2	3	1	1	7	3	1	—	—	4
1962	9	3	1	1	14	3	—	1	—	4
1963	2	5	—	—	7	—	1	—	—	1
1964	2	2	—	—	4	—	1	—	—	1
1965	3	4	—	1	8	—	—	—	1	1

The Mobile Chest X-Ray Unit now visits Biggleswade regularly to provide a service for local medical practitioners. It is stationed at "The Lawns" every Tuesday morning, between 11.15 a.m. and 11.45 a.m.

8.

SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

(a) Public Water Supply

The water supplied in the area has proved most satisfactory both in quantity and quality. It is pumped direct from the Greensand and requires no treatment other than chlorination.

Results of bacteriological examination of the raw water are not available, but samples are taken at regular intervals from various points in the distribution system by the Water Board.

It will be seen from the following report on a recent sample submitted for chemical examination by The Counties Public Health Laboratories that the water is of a high standard of organic purity and is not plumbo-solvent.

Chemical Results (in parts per million)

Appearance—Clear and bright.

Turbidity	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Colour	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Odour	..	..	..	..	..	Faintly chlorinous		

pH	7.2
Free Carbon Dioxide	21
Electric Conductivity	350
Dissolved Solids dried at 180°C.	250
Chlorine present as Chloride	11
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	150
Hardness: Total	190
Carbonate	150
Non-carbonate	40
Nitrate Nitrogen	0.0
Nitrite Nitrogen	Absent
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.01
Oxygen Absorbed	0.10
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.00
Residual Chlorine	0.05
Metals: Iron, Zinc, Copper, Lead, Manganese	absent

This sample is clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from iron and other metals. The water is moderately hard in character, it contains no excess of mineral constituents and it is of very satisfactory organic quality.

From the aspect of the chemical analysis these results are indicative of an efficiently treated water, pure and wholesome in character and suitable for public supply purposes.

In addition to samples taken by the Board, your Officers submit samples for bacteriological examination at The Public Health Laboratory at Bedford and during the year 10 such samples were taken, all of which were sterile.

(b) Privately Owned Sources

It will be noted from column 3(c) of the following table that there are 29 isolated premises far removed from the public supply, which rely on private wells or boreholes for their water supply, and during the year 16 samples have been submitted for examination with the following results:—

Class 1 (Excellent)	7
Class 2 (Satisfactory)	4
Class 3 (Suspicious)	2
Class 4 (Unsatisfactory)	3

In all cases of samples falling into Classes 3 and 4 the occupiers of the property concerned were immediately advised to boil all water intended for drinking purposes before use. Further samples will be taken and every effort made to secure a satisfactory supply of water.

(c) Distribution of Water

The following figures are for 1961 as up-to-date figures are not yet available.

PARISH	Estimated Population supplied from mains	Number of houses		
		With direct mains supply	Mains supply to standpipe	Dependent on other source
Arlesey	3060	1070	—	2
Astwick	38	12	—	—
Blunham	615	202	—	—
Campton	335	119	—	3
Chicksands ..	900*	124	—	4
Clifton	1330	479	—	—
Cockayne Hatley	106	36	—	—
Dunton	440	156	—	2
Edworth	50	25	—	—
Everton	220	96	—	—
Eyeworth	90	28	—	2
Henlow	3950*	872	—	—
Langford	1250	527	—	—
Meppershall ..	710	238	—	—
Mogerhanger ..	585	183	—	—
Northill	1450	512	—	4
Old Warden ..	430	105	—	7
Potton	2060	782	—	3
Shefford	2010	749	—	—
Southill	1075	343	—	2
Stotfold	5220	1319	—	—
Sutton	280	90	—	—
Tempsford	480	152	—	—
Upper Stondon	70	27	—	—
Wrestlingworth	385	138	—	—

*These figures include Service Personnel

(d) Drainage and Sewerage

In view of the restriction on capital expenditure, the preparation of tender documents for the extension of Stotfold Sewage Disposal Works was held in abeyance. The report of the Consulting Engineers on the proposed modification and extension of Arlesey works was received towards the end of the year, and after consideration of the report the Council decided to ask the Engineers for information as to capital and annual costs of a combined sewerage scheme for the two parishes.

The sewerage of Blunham, Mogerhanger and Tempsford is progressing satisfactorily. Sewage from these parishes will be treated at a disposal works in Tempsford and it is anticipated that the scheme will be completed early in 1966.

A sewerage scheme for Dunton has been approved in outline, but because of the restriction on capital expenditure, it has unfortunately had to be held in abeyance.

Work on the sewerage of Meppershall, Upper Stondon and part of Henlow is in progress. Sewage from these parishes will be treated at a disposal works at Shillington in the Ampthill Rural area.

The scheme for Northill (including Ickwell and Upper Caldecote) is complete except for the installation of pumps, etc. This work has been delayed pending a definite date for the completion of Biggleswade Urban District Council's Disposal Works where sewage from these villages will be treated.

Unfortunately the preparation of a sewage scheme for Old Warden has been delayed, owing to the difficulty of finding a suitable site for the disposal plant.

The scheme for Wrestlingworth came into operation in March, 1965.

(e) Night Soil Removal and Cesspool Emptying

This service has continued to function satisfactorily and the amount of work is gradually decreasing as houses are modernized and properties are connected to the public sewers. During the year the number of cesspools, etc. emptied was 1,470 as compared with 1,576 for 1964. 53 cesspools were emptied on behalf of Biggleswade Urban District Council and the cost of this work was recovered from that Authority.

Nightsoil is disposed of by means of composting at an isolated farm in the district and the contents of cesspools are spread on waste land at Potton. Occasionally loads are spread on agricultural land with the agreement of the farmer concerned and his undertaking to plough the ground immediately after application.

(f) Watercourses

There has been an appreciable decrease in the extent of pollution of watercourses during the year, particularly in parishes having public sewerage systems. In those parishes, every effort will be made to secure the disconnection of remaining house drains from the ditches and their connection to the sewers.

(g) Refuse Collection and Disposal

I am pleased to report that a scheme for the weekly removal of refuse throughout the area was commenced on 1st September, 1965. Such a service was very much overdue and is undoubtedly appreciated by householders.

The present "skep" method of removal leaves much to be desired and during the year the Council considered the possibility of introducing two pilot schemes using the paper sack method of collection. Unfortunately however it was decided not to proceed with these schemes because of cost, but to review the matter again during 1966. I feel that the introduction of such a scheme cannot, and should not be long delayed, and it is hoped that when the position is again reviewed next year it might be found possible to

at least operate a pilot scheme so that its merits, costs, etc., can be assessed before the current contracts for refuse removal expire in 1969.

The method of disposal of refuse is by controlled tipping in a disused gravel pit. In addition to the daily covering of refuse with soil, it is sprayed during the summer months as a precaution against flies, and the Rodent Operator carries out regular treatments for rat infestation. One attendant is employed whole time at the tip and he also operates the new International B85 front loader which was acquired during the year.

In my last report, I referred to the difficulty in finding another suitable site for the disposal of refuse in order that the Ministry's recommendation that a tip be jointly operated with neighbouring Authorities, might be impleted. A number of possible sites have been inspected and after discussions with The Great Ouse River Authority and other interested bodies, two have been selected. As soon as the many preliminary enquiries are completed, a detailed report will be submitted to the Council.

(h) Sanitary Inspection of the Area

Houses inspected under the Public Health Acts	..	653
Houses re-inspected under the Public Health Acts	..	197
Houses inspected under the Housing Acts	.. ..	201
Houses re-inspected under the Housing Acts	.. ..	56
Visits re number of occupants	.. .. .	22
Moveable dwellings visited	.. .. .	159
Investigations re sewers and drains	.. .. .	276
Inspection of watercourses	.. .. .	78
Inspection of places of entertainment	.. .. .	13
Inspections re Improvement Grants	.. .. .	152
Miscellaneous visits	.. .. .	1,274

(i) Infestations

One house was found to be infested with fleas during the year. The necessary treatment was carried out. Precautions were taken to prevent them from spreading to the adjoining house.

(j) Rodent Control

One operator is employed by the Council and he is responsible for carrying out surveys and the treatment of infested premises. Disinfestation is carried out free of charge for occupants of domestic properties but a charge is made in respect of work undertaken at business premises.

Regular inspections and treatment are carried out at the Council's refuse tip and sewage disposal works. In addition, the routine test baiting of sewers is also undertaken, and where infestations are found, the necessary treatment is carried out.

The following table indicates the amount of work carried out during the year:—

	Local Authority	Dwellings	All others Including Business Premises	Total
No. of properties inspected . .	104	362	32	498
No. of properties found to be infested	26	226	10	262
No. of infested properties treated	26	226	10	262

(k) Lodging Houses

There are no lodging houses in the district.

(l) Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

The initial survey of premises under this Act was completed during the year and a total of 131 visits were made.

The following table shows the numbers and types of premises registered and persons employed:—

<i>Type of premises</i>	<i>Number registered</i>	<i>Persons employed</i>
Offices	21	143
Retail shops	53	196
Wholesale shops, warehouses	4	42
Catering establishments, canteens	9	28
TOTALS	87	409

In the course of the initial survey 25 contraventions were found. As the result of informal representation to the persons concerned, 17 were remedied by the end of the year.

Two minor accidents were reported and investigated. Both involved falls by employees at retail shops and the owners were advised on improved methods of packing goods and the lighting of store rooms.

There are as yet no prescribed lighting standards for premises covered by the Act, but at the request of the Ministry of Labour, a special survey of lighting standards was undertaken during the month of November.

It was found that in the older type of premises the tendency was for pendant filament lights to be sited rather in relation to their symmetrical appearance than to their effectiveness in the illumination of working surfaces.

Natural lighting in shops was generally limited by window displays and advertisements, and had to be supplemented by artificial lighting, whilst storage rooms containing stacks of shelves almost to ceiling height, were invariably badly lit. Staircases, passages, and wash places were, with very few exceptions, found to have an inferior standard of lighting compared with the "selling areas" of shops.

On average, the standard of lighting expressed in lumens per square foot in the working areas of shops, compared with that in the selling areas was:—

<i>Working Area</i>	<i>Selling Area</i>
(Lumens per sq. ft.)	(Lumens per sq. ft.)
25	37

9. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) Meat Inspection

I have repeatedly referred to the long hours of overtime worked by your Inspectors in order to ensure the inspection of the carcasses of all animals slaughtered at the two licensed slaughterhouses in the district. This year has proved no exception to the rule and no fewer than 298 hours overtime have been worked.

The number of animals slaughtered was 25,989 as compared with 28,875 in 1964, and the following summary shows the carcasses and offal inspected and condemned in whole or part:—

	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	3,216	200	10	6,558	16,005
Number inspected	3,216	200	10	6,558	16,005
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCI:					
Whole carcasses condemned	4	2	2	39	52
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1,857	96	1	277	3,495
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis or cysticerici	57.87	49.00	30.00	4.82	22.16
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY:					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	13	1	—	—	321
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	0.40	0.50	—	—	2.01
CYSTICERCOSIS:					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	34	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration ..	34	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally con- demned	—	—	—	—	—

Carcases found to be affected with *cysticercus bovis* are subject to deep freezing before being released for human consumption. The affected portions are rejected as unfit.

The total weight of meat found to be unfit for human consumption and destroyed was 24 tons 18 cwt. 1 qr. 17 lbs.

(b) Other Food Premises

A total of 238 visits were made to food shops, restaurants and canteens during the year and the improvement of 12 premises was secured by means of informal action.

A complaint was received regarding mould in meat pies bought in a canteen. Upon investigation it was found that the pies were manufactured by a firm in Lincolnshire and had been delivered the previous day. The Inspector in whose area the pies were manufactured was informed and the pies condemned.

The following foodstuffs were condemned as unfit for human consumption :—

- 876 tins of various foods.
- 90 packets of various frozen foods.
- 28 lbs. frozen kidneys.
- 31 lbs. imported beef.
- 1 turkey.
- 6 chickens.
- 2 meat pies.
- 56 lbs. fish.
- 118 packets of cheese.

(c) Ice Cream

There are now 95 retailers of ice cream in the area and all premises have been maintained satisfactorily during the year.

(d) Licences to Deal in Game

Three Licences to deal in game were issued during 1965.

HOUSING

(a) Housing Conditions

During 1965, 6 Demolition Orders and 4 Closing Orders were made. Undertakings to repair were accepted under Section 16 of the Housing Act 1957 in respect of 4 dwellings, whilst 4 other properties were satisfactorily repaired and the Demolition Orders revoked.

13 dwellings were demolished and 42 were repaired as the result of informal action. In only two instances was it necessary to resort to statutory proceedings to secure the repair of dwellings.

61 houses and 10 bungalows were erected by the Council during the year. 11 tenancies were allocated to occupants of houses in respect of which demolition orders had been made.

(b) Improvement Grants

The numbers of applications for improvement grants showed a considerable decrease as compared with those for 1964 and may be summarized as follows:—

(1) Standard

	Owner/ occupiers	Tenanted
Number of applications Received	12	2
Number of applications Approved	12	2
Number of dwellings improved	12	2

					£	s.	d.
Amount paid in grants	..	..	..	..	1,836	0	0
Average grant per house	..	..	..	..	131	2	10

Amenities provided:—

- (a) fixed bath
- (b) shower
- (c) wash hand basin
- (d) hot water supply (to any fittings)
- (e) water closet (1) within dwelling
- (2) accessible from dwelling
- (f) food store

8
—
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(2) Discretionary

	Owner/ occupiers	Tenanted
Number of applications Received	20	10
Number of applications Approved	20	10
Number of dwellings Improved	20	10

					£	s.	d.
Amount paid in grants	..	..	..	..	8,927	0	0
Average grant per house	..	..	..	..	297	11	4

(c) Certificates of Disrepair

No applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received, but the landlord of two dwellings applied twice for cancellation of certificates. In the first instance the tenants objected and the applications were refused.

Subsequently, further repairs were carried out and the certificates were cancelled.

11. ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENT ACT, 1963

With the transfer of part of South Cambridgeshire Rural area to this Authority, one additional boarding establishment has been added to the register, thus making a total of 5 such premises in the district. 11 inspections were made during the year, and all premises were found to be maintained satisfactorily.

12. SCRAP METAL DEALERS

The Scrap Metal Dealers Act, 1964 came into operation on the 1st April, 1965 and requires Local Authorities to register Scrap Metal Dealers, who in turn are required to maintain records of their dealings. Subject to consultation with the Chief Officer of Police, Local Authorities may exempt Itinerant Dealers from certain of the requirements relating to the keeping of records.

By the end of the year 31 dealers had been registered, 25 of whom as Itinerant dealers, were exempted from the requirement of keeping certain records. In one case the Chief of Police did not recommend exemption and the application was refused.

11. ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1961 (Part 1)

1. Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors):

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of written Notices and Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	6	8	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	91	82	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	—	—	—
Total	97	90	—

2. Cases in which defects were found :

	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness ..	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temp. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences:					
(a) Insufficient ..	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	1	1	—	—	—

3. Outwork (Section 133 & 134)

Nature of Work	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sec. 111(I)c.	No. of cases of default in sending lists to Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises
Wearing apparel	15	—	—	—
Doll Making	2	—	—	—

4. Outwork (Section 133 & 134)

Notices Served

Nil

Prosecutions

Nil

